



TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

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Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

COOK ISLANDS LETTER REGARDING F/V LEAH DAWN AND EHSP SMA

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Paper prepared by Cook Islands



MINISTRY OF MARINE RESOURCES

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Thursday, 1st September 2011

ATTN: Mr. Glenn Hurry,
Executive Director
Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
Kolonias, Pohnpei
F.S.M

Kia Orana Glenn,

RE: Cook Islands Fishing Vessel Leah Dawn (E5U2108) transiting E-HSP

In relation to the monitoring reports required by CMM 2010-02, we note that the Cook Islands fishing vessel Leah Dawn was tracked transiting the Eastern High Seas Pocket during August 2011 and that no corresponding manual report of catch on board was submitted to the Commission.

We wish to advise the Commission that the reason for this is that the vessel was on a cargo delivery run from Rarotonga to Penrhyn when it passed through the pocket (refer Attachment 1. Vessel Track 'Leah Dawn').

The FV 'Leah Dawn' was contracted at short notice by the Cook Islands Government to deliver 15,000 litres of fuel, along with food and general cargo to Penrhyn, due to severe shortages on the island. The vessel left Rarotonga on 18 August and steamed in a straight line to Penrhyn, 1000 kilometers to the north, arriving there on 26 August. The Eastern High Seas Pocket lies mid-way between the two islands and was transited. Once the cargo was delivered, the vessel resumed its normal fishing operations within Cook Islands waters.

Operations of this nature are not uncommon in the Cook Islands, and indeed having fishing vessels available and willing to assist in this way has been a godsend. In this case, in addition to the humanitarian benefits, the fuel delivered to Penrhyn will continue to allow our patrol boat 'Te Kukupa' to patrol the northern regions as well as the EHSP itself.

We would like to advise that in future we will take any and all steps necessary to ensure this situation does not arise again. For the information of the Commission, we have again advised in writing to all Cook Islands fishing vessels that regardless of their operational status, a manual report of any activity in the EHSP is mandatory.

Kind regards,

Josh Mitchell.
Director, Offshore Fisheries
Ministry of Marine Resources
COOK ISLANDS

Attachment 1: Vessel Track FV 'LEAH DAWN'.

